

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/605,488

Examiner

Srirama Channavajjala

Applicant(s)

BURKE, THOMAS R.

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/28/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,6,9,13-15 and 18 [re-numbered as: 1-8].
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 04042007.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>4/4/2007</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1,3,6,9,13-15,18 are allowed.

Drawings

2. Examiner acknowledges applicant's "Replacement sheets" fig 1-2,15A-15B,16
3. The Drawings filed on 10/2/2003 are acceptable for examination purpose.

Priority

4. Applicant's claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) is acknowledged based on the provisional application **60/415,099** filed on 10/2/2002

Information Disclosure Statement

5. The information disclosure statement filed on 5/3/2004, 8/27/2004 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, and has been considered and a copy is enclosed with this Office Action.

Interview:

6. Applicant's Attorney Edwin A. Skoch II, Reg.No. 50,483 is thanked for the telephone interview on 04 April 2007. During that telephone interview Edwin A. Skoch II granted authorization to **amend claims 1,3,6,13-15,18** and **cancel claims: 2,4-5,7-8,10-12,16-17,19-36**, amendment to the specification at page 22, paragraph [0066-0067], amendment to the drawings as filed on 2/28/2007 "replacement sheet" fig 15A" attached as markup drawing to this office action.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

7. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's Attorney Edwin A. Skoch II, Reg.No. 50,483 on 04 April 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraphs [0066] and [0067] with the following amended paragraph:

[0066] The data may be transmitted to the *Data Manager* electronically via telephone or the Internet, or it may be transformed into a physically-deliverable data storage means, such as magnetic disks, compact discs, portable flash modules, ~~or paper~~. Preferably, however, electronic transmission is desirable, since it lends itself to complete automation, with minimal human interaction and processing, thereby reducing possible errors.

[0067] Regardless of the delivery means by either **Data Provider** or **Sender**, the **Receiver Module, 22**, has a complementary means for receiving and converting the data back to electronic form for further processing and use in the **Database**. ~~For example, if paper transmittal is used, the paper listing is scanned and recognized using an Optical Character Recognition (OCR) program to transform the data contained therein to electronic form. Of course, the use of such a paper process is more prone to errors, especially when compared with electronic transmission means that use sophisticated error correction techniques to produce essentially error free communications.~~

In the CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

CLAIM 1. (**CURRENTLY AMENDED**) A computer-based system for providing
~~returning~~ alternate entity-contact information for an entity of one type in response to
~~a query having contact information of the same type, for the same entity,~~ comprising:

- a) a data storage means for storing data;
- b) a computer database of contact information consisting of a plurality of different types of contact information for a plurality of entities, which resides in said data storage means;
- c) a first means for receiving, from a query originator comprising a person or computer program, one or more queries, each comprising at least one type element of contact information for an entity, said first means being capable of communicating with said computer database;
- d) a second means for accessing and searching said computer database for different contact information, said second means being capable of communicating with said first means and with said computer database, that wherein said second means:
 - (d1) compares the said contact information in said query to the contents of said database, and

(d2) identifies contact information in said database related to said entity in said query by identifying contact information of a different type than was in said query which is related to the same entity as in said query, and

(d3) searches through said database, comparing the contents of said database with said identified contact information of a different type, and

(d4) identifies and stores alternate ~~alternate~~ contact information of the same type as said query, which is related to the said entity; and

e) a third means for returning a response to said query originator, said response comprising alternate ~~different~~ contact information of the same type as in said query, ~~said different contact information~~ corresponding to the same entity as in said query, and said response comprising ~~data~~ alternate contact information which has been identified by said second means ~~in a computer or human readable, computer storable, and computer transmittable format.~~

CLAIM 2. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 3. (**CURRENTLY AMENDED**) A computer-based system, as in Claim 1, 2, wherein ~~the~~ said second means further comprises a means for repeating said searching and said identifying means, until all related alternate contact information of the type in said query for said entity is identified in said database.

CLAIM 4. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 5. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 6. (**CURRENTLY AMENDED**) A computer-based system, as in Claim 1, 2, wherein the contact information type of said query and the alternate contact information returned ~~data~~ is an Email address, and said different ~~second~~ type is a name and postal address.

CLAIM 7. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 8. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer-based system according to Claim 1, wherein the system further comprises a means for obtaining permission from the entity in said query, prior to the response to said query.

CLAIM 10. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 11. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 12. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 13. (**CURRENTLY AMENDED**) A method for obtaining alternate contact information for an entity ~~by returning different entity contact information in response to a query having contact information of the same type, for the same entity,~~ comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a query consisting of entity contact information ~~of a first type~~, said query having been originated by a person or computer program; and

b) accessing a computer database of contact information of a plurality of types corresponding to a plurality of entities, said entities consisting of persons or businesses or both; and

c) comparing said ~~first type of~~ contact information in said query with the contents of said computer database; and

d) if said ~~first type of~~ contact information in said query is included in said computer database then:

d1) identifying contact information of a second different type in said computer database, which is related to said ~~first type of~~ contact information in said query;

d2) searching said contents of said computer database, using said related contact information and comparing said related contact information with said contents of said computer database, and,

d3) identifying, in said computer database, ~~one or more~~ alternative contact information ~~elements of the first type~~ which is of the same type as the contact information in said query and which is related to the entity in said query by using said second type of related contact information to search said database; and,

~~d4)-e)~~ generating, storing, and returning a response to said originator of said query which includes said identified alternate contact information ~~of the first type~~ related to said entity in said query, ~~said response comprising data in a computer or human readable, computer storable, and computer transmittable format;~~ and

~~f)-e)~~ alternatively, if said contact information in said query is not included in said computer database then: generating, storing, and returning a response to said originator of said query indicating that alternate contact information ~~of the first type~~ for said entity is not included in said computer database, ~~if this is the case, and said response comprising data in a computer or human readable, computer storable, and computer transmittable format.~~

CLAIM 14. (**CURRENTLY AMENDED**) A method, as in Claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

d3.1) repeatedly searching the said computer database and identifying all related contact information of the same type as in said query, using said second type of contact information and alternate contact information of said first type for repeatedly searching said database, related contact information of a different type and related alternate contact information which is of the same type as in said query, until all related contact information of said first type for said entity is identified in said database, until no further related contact information for said entity of the same type as in said query can be found in said database.

CLAIM 15. (**CURRENTLY AMENDED**) The method according to Claim 13, further comprising the step of obtaining permission from said entity, prior to said response to said query, said step comprising:

- 1) generating and transmitting a permission request to said entity;
- 2) obtaining permission from said entity; and
- 3) discarding contact information from said response, if said permission is not obtained.

CLAIM 16. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 17. (**CANCELED**).

CLAIM 18. (**CURRENTLY AMENDED**) The method, according to Claim 13, wherein said ~~first type of~~ contact information in said query and the said alternate contact information in said response is an Email address and said different ~~second~~ type is a name and postal address.

CLAIM 19. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 20. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 21. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 22. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 23. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 24. (**CANCELED**)

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CLAIM 25. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 26. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 27. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 28. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 29. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 30. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 31. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 32. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 33. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 34. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 35. (**CANCELED**)

CLAIM 36. (**CANCELED**)

Pursuant to MPEP 606.01 the Title is changed to read.

**--SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR IDENTIFYING ALTERNATE CONTACT
INFORMATION IN A DATABASE RELATED TO ENTITY, QUERY BY IDENTIFYING
CONTACT INFORMATION OF A DIFFERENT TYPE THAN WAS IN QUERY WHICH
IS RELATED TO THE SAME ENTITY—**

Reasons for allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for indication of allowable subject matter:

The present invention is directed to a method and system for identifying alternative contact information, more specifically to find alternative Email addresses for an entity based an existing, known Email address by using searching the database for matches, further, querying feature preferably comprises a comparison for searching the existing database for either Email addresses or alternative PII in the database that may be related to or linked to those Email addresses [see Abstract, page 11, 0024].

The closest prior art US Patent No. 7010572 issued to Benjamin et al. is directed to system or handling electronic mail, more specifically, conveying an email message including steps of receiving an email message forwarded by a sender, the email message including an invalid destination address, searching a database for records partially or completely matching parts of the destination address and sending a notification message to the sender of the email that including notification message advising the sender of the results of the database search [see Abstract, col 2, line 53-62].

The closest prior art US Patent No. 6654779 issued to Tsuei, is directed to computer system in responsive to an Internet query for accessing the database to determine whether a second e-mail address of the intended recipient is stored in

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association with a first e-mail address, more specifically, the query response is provided to an ISP associated with the sender, and the sender's ISP auto forwards the e-mail message to the second e-mail address [see Abstract, col 3, line 30-39].

It is however, noted that the prior art of record either along or in combination fails to anticipate or render obvious, the recited feature "*identifies contact information in said database related to said entity in said query by identifying contact information of a different type than was in said query which is related to the same entity as in said query; a third means for returning a response to said query originator, said response comprising alternate contact information of the same type as in said query, corresponding to the same entity as in said query, and said response comprising alternate contact information which has been identified by said second means*" in claim 1; "*identifying contact information of a different type in said computer database, which is related to said contact information in said query; alternatively, if said contact information in said query is not included in said computer database then generating, storing and returning a response to said originator of said query indicating that alternate contact information for said entity is not included in said computer database*", in claim 13.

These features, together with the other limitations of the independent claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. The dependent claims 3,6,9,

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14-15,18 being definite, enabled by the specification, and further limiting to the independent claims is also allowable.


The newly cited reference WO 02/31862 issued to Drexler,Jerome,P, published on 18 April 2002 is directed to email to database import utility, more specifically, data from the email message are associated with one or more of records, tables, and/or fields of the database, further email message is parsed by searching the text of the message for a predefined delimiting character [see Abstract, page 2, 15-23].

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Srirama Channavajjala whose telephone number is 571-272-4108. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alam, Hosain, T, can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone numbers for the organization where the application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300 Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free)

SC

Patent Examiner.
April 4, 2007.


SRIRAMA CHANNAVAJJALA
PRIMARY EXAMINER